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EXAMINER

ZHANG, SHIRLEY X

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4121

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,095

Applicant(s)

MANCHESTER ET AL.

Examiner

SHIRLEY X. ZHANG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date February 28, 2005 and May 31, 2005

DETAILED ACTION

This non-final office action is responsive to the U.S. patent application no. 10/807,095 filed on March 23, 2004.

Claims 1-28 have been examined and are pending.

Priority

1. Applicant's claim for benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to the U.S. provisional application no. 60/534,795 filed on January 08, 2004 is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Two information disclosure statements (IDS) were received on February 28, 2005 and May 31, 2005, respectively. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the first sentence of the abstract recites the term "to **simply** the task of" in which there appears to be an error. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 15-17, 20-23, and 25** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent application publication no. 2002/0095595 to Christopherson et al., hereinafter “**Christopherson**”.

Regarding claim 1, Christopherson teaches a method of configuring a thin client computing device for operation in a network, comprising:

creating configuration data for the thin client computing device, the configuration data including network settings for the thin client computing device to operate in the network ([0008] discloses that the preferred embodiments describe a method, system and program for configuring a client computer connected to a network; [0011] further discloses that the sets of configuration parameters associated with the tokens may include network configuration parameters indicating network settings the computer uses to communicate over the network);

storing the configuration data on a portable media device ([0044] discloses that removable non-volatile storage medium may be used to store the configuration parameters);

connecting the portable media device to the thin client computing device ([0044] discloses that the user can take the removable medium to different client computer machines, and the different network machines would initialize the client computer using the configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage medium); and

detecting, by the thin client computing device, the portable media device connected thereto ([0042] discloses that the configuration unit may be a PCMCIA card

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that is inserted in a PCMCIA port of the client computer, or it can be any removable non-volatile storage medium; to support these removal storage medium, the client computer inherently has the capability of detecting the presence of the removable storage medium); and

executing by the thin client computing device a configuration program to automatically configure the thin client computing device using the configuration data stored on the portable media device ([0033] discloses that the boot firmware, a program executing on the client computer, applies network configuration parameters stored in the NVRAM).

Regarding claim 2, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 1, wherein the steps of creating and storing configuration data are performed on a computer and the step of creating includes prompting a user, through a user interface of the computer, to create network settings for the thin client computing device ([0032] discloses that the setup utility can receive network and operating system configuration settings through an interactive user interface displayed by the setup utility).

Regarding claim 4, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 2, wherein the step of creating configuration data includes generating, by computer, default values for selected network settings ([0039] discloses that the setup utility may load certain default sets of configuration parameters into the NVRAM).

Regarding claim 5, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 4, wherein the step of generating default values includes invoking an application program interface (API) of an operating system of the initiating computer to generate the default values for the selected network settings (as is mentioned in claim 4, [0039] discloses that the setup

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utility may load certain default sets of configuration parameters into the NVRAM, it is inherent in this process that the loading of default sets of configuration parameters is done via invoking an API of an operating system).

Regarding claim 9, Christopherson discloses that a method as in claim 2, wherein the step of creating network settings includes receiving network setting data entered by the user ([0006] discloses that it is known in the prior art that a user can enter networking settings at the client computer).

Regarding claim 11, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 1, wherein the portable media device is a flash memory card ([0042] discloses that the non-volatile storage medium can be a PCMCIA card, which is a flash memory card).

Regarding claim 15, Christopherson teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for execution on a thin client computing device for performing steps of:

detecting connection of a portable media device to the thin client computing device ([0042] discloses that the configuration unit may be a PCMCIA card that is inserted in a PCMCIA port of the client computer, or it can be any removable non-volatile storage medium; to support these removal storage medium, the client computer inherently has the capability of detecting the presence of the removable storage medium), the portable media device containing configuration data including network settings for the thin client computing device ([0044] discloses that removable non-volatile storage medium may be used to store the configuration parameters); and

automatically configuring the thin client computing device for operation in a network using the network settings contained in the portable media device ([0033]

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discloses that the boot firmware, a program executing on the client computer, applies network configuration parameters stored in the NVRAM).

Regarding claim 16, Christopherson teaches a computer-readable medium as in claim 15, wherein the step of automatically configuring includes recognizing that the portable media device contains network settings, and invoking a configuration program to implement the network settings in the computing device ([0033] discloses that the boot firmware applies the network configuration parameters stored in the NVRAM).

Regarding claim 17, Christopherson teaches a computer-readable medium as in claim 15, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of writing settings configured on the thin client computing device into the portable media device ([0044] discloses that removable non-volatile storage medium may be used to store the configuration parameters, which action is inherently performed by computer-executable instructions).

Regarding claim 20, Christopherson teaches a computer-readable medium as in claim 15, wherein the portable media device is a flash memory card ([0042] discloses that the non-volatile storage medium can be a PCMCIA card, which is a flash memory card).

Regarding claim 21, Christopherson teaches a thin client computing device comprising:

a microprocessor circuit ([0018] discloses that the client computer includes a CPU);

a media port for receiving a portable media device ([0042] discloses a PCMCIA port of the client computer);

and a memory containing computer-executable instructions for execution by the microprocessor circuit for detecting connection of a portable media device to the media port ([0018] discloses that the client computer includes a memory, which inherently contains computer-executable instructions for execution by the microprocessor; [0042] further discloses that the configuration unit may be a PCMCIA card that is inserted in a PCMCIA port of the client computer, or it can be any removable non-volatile storage medium; to support these removal storage medium, the client computer inherently has the capability of detecting the presence of the removable storage medium),

the portable media device containing configuration data including network settings for the thin client computing device ([0044] discloses that removable non-volatile storage medium may be used to store the configuration parameters); and

automatically configuring the thin client computing device for operation in a network using the network settings contained in the portable media device ([0033] discloses that the boot firmware, a program executing on the client computer, loads network configuration parameters stored in the NVRAM).

Regarding claim 22, Christopherson teaches a thin client computing device as in claim 21, wherein the memory contains computer-executable instructions for execution by the microprocessor circuit for recognizing that the portable media device contains network settings, and invoking a configuration program to implement the network settings in the thin client computing device ([0033] discloses that the boot firmware applies the network configuration parameters stored in the NVRAM).

Regarding claim 23, Christopherson teaches a thin client computing device as in claim 21, wherein the memory contains computer-executable instructions for execution

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by the microprocessor circuit for writing settings configured on the thin client computing device into the portable media device (page 5, claim 1 discloses storing sets of configuration parameters in the non-volatile storage unit).

Regarding claim 25, Christopherson teaches a thin client computing device as in claim 21, wherein the media port is a flash card slot ([0042] discloses a PCMCIA port that is a flash card slot).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not

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commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. **Claim 3** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopherson as applied to claim 2 above, further in view of the web article "Using XML Based Configuration File in Windows Form Applications" authored by Daniel, Olson.

Regarding claim 3, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 2, wherein the step of storing stores the configuration data on the portable media device ([0044] discloses that removable non-volatile storage medium may be used to store the configuration parameters).

Christopherson does not disclose that the step further includes generating an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file containing the network settings for the thin client computing device. However, at the time the invention was made, it was already well known that configuration data can be stored in a file using XML format, as evidenced by Olson's disclosure.

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to generate an XML file containing the network settings for the thin client computing device. And the motivation to combine would have come from the fact that storing configuration data in XML was knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill.

6. **Claim 6** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopherson as applied to claim 2 above, further in view of the printed publication

“**Wi-Fi Protected Access:** Strong, Standards-based, interoperable security for today’s Wi-Fi networks” prepared by Wi-Fi Alliance on April 29, 2003.

Regarding claim 6, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 2, Christopherson further discloses that wireless transmission media as a possible media connection in the preferred embodiment ([0041] discloses “wireless transmission media”).

Christopherson does not disclose that the step of creating network settings includes generating a security key for the wireless network.

However, it is well known that a security key is a critical and integral part of the configuration parameters for the wireless network, as is disclosed in the article “Wi-Fi Protected Access”.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Christopherson so that its networking setting parameters include the security key for wireless network. One would have been motivated to combine as such by Christopherson’s teaching of including wireless network media in a preferred embodiment.

7. **Claims 7 and 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopherson as applied to claim 2 above, further in view of the printed publication “Log files: an extended file service exploiting write-once storage” by Finlayson et al.

Regarding claim 7, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 2.

Christopherson does not disclose the step of writing by the thin client computing device into the portable media device a configuration log file containing settings of the thin client computing device.

However, logging information to a file is a well known computer programming technique for device monitoring and recovery if needed, as taught by Finlayson. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill to implement the log file function into the current invention.

Regarding claim 8, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 7, further including the steps of: detecting, by the computer, reconnection of the portable media device to the computer ([0044] discloses using removable storage medium; any computer that supports removable media device inherently has the capability of detecting the reconnection of the device to the computer);

Christopherson does not disclose retrieving, by the computer from the portable media device, the configuration log file written by the thin client computing device.

However, Finlayson teaches in its abstract that he log files must be readable, which implies that information in the file can be retrieved by other computers.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to perform the step of retrieving configuration log file using a computer other than the thin client. One would have been motivated to do so because such method is well know in the art of software engineering.

8. **Claims 12-14, 18, and 26-28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopherson as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of U.S. patent no. 6,411,829 to Takanaka, hereinafter "Takenaka".

Regarding claims 12, 18 and 26, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 1, a computer-readable medium as in claim 15 and a thin client computing device as in claim 21. Christopherson does not further disclose the steps of signaling by the thin

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client computing device a completion of configuration operation after the thin client computing device is configured using the configuration data stored on the portable media device.

However, Takenaka teaches using audio or visual signal to indicate the completion of charging in column 4, lines 57-67 and column 5, lines 1-15.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill to modify Christopherson with Takenaka's audio and visual signaling technique so that the client computer will signal a completion of configuration operation. One would have been motivated to combine as such by the fact that the thin client in the current invention is similar to the mobile device disclosed in Takenaka, therefore the combination would have yielded a predictable result.

Regarding claims 13 and 27, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 12, and a thin client computing device as in claim 26. Christopherson does not disclose but Takenaka teaches the step of signaling includes flashing a light-emitting diode (LED) on the thin client computing device (Takenaka, column 5, line 12 discloses signaling the completion of charging by flashing the LED).

The motivation to combine Christopherson and Takenaka is the same as that stated for claims 12 and 18 above.

Regarding claims 14 and 28, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 12, and a thin client computing device as in claim 26. Christopherson does not disclose but Takenaka teaches the step of signaling includes displaying a message on a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen of the thin client computing device (Takenaka, column 5, lines 8-9

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disclose the method of controlling the display section for displaying the completion of charging).

The motivation to combine Christopherson and Takenaka is the same as that stated for claims 12 and 18 above.

9. **Claims 10, 19 and 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopherson as applied to claims 1 and 21 above respectively, further in view of "IBM 8MB USB Memory Key – User's Guide" published by IBM on 2000, hereinafter "IBM USB".

Regarding claims 10, 19 and 24, Christopherson teaches a method as in claim 1, a computer-readable medium as in claim 15, and a thin client computing device as in claim 21, respectively. Christopherson does not disclose that the portable media device is a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive, or the media port is a USB port.

However, USB flash drive has been available since 2000, as evidenced by the by IBM user's guide.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use USB flash drive as a possible choice of the portable media device in the current application, and as a result the media port is a USB port. One would have been motivated to combine as such by Christopherson's teaching/suggestion in paragraph [0044] that other types of removable storage device may be used to store the configuration parameters.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 20020007407 A1, Klein, John Raymond, Auto configuration of portable computers for use in wireless local area networks;

US 20050198221 A1, Manchester, Scott et al., Configuring an ad hoc wireless network using a portable media device;

US 6738027 B1, Doolittle; Robert A. et al., Method and apparatus for configuration using a portable electronic configuration device;

US 6654797 B1, Kamper; Robert J., Apparatus and a methods for server configuration using a removable storage device;

US 5553314 A, Grube; Gary W. et al., Method of configuring a communication unit using a wireless portable configuration device;

US 6976253 B1, Wierman; Dean M. et al., Method and apparatus for configuring a mobile device;

US 6934853 B2, Christopherson; Thomas Dean et al., Method, system and program for sharing the ability to set configuration parameters in a network environment;

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHIRLEY X. ZHANG whose telephone number is (571)270-5012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi Arani can be reached on (571) 272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. X. Z./

Examiner, Art Unit 4121

/Taghi T. Arani/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4121

1/24/2008